

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01577 121737 Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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O 121655 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4005

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 1577

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, OVIP ( PRATS, CARLOS)

SUBJECT: GENERAL PRAT'S TRIP

REF: STATE 067231

1. YESTERDAY EVENING I HAD GENERAL PRATS BY FOR A DRINK AND CONVEYED GENERAL ABRAMS' WILLINGNESS TO HOST GENERAL PRATS IN WASHINGTON. I ASKED PRATS WHEN HE WOULD BE THERE AND HE TOLD ME HE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE MAY 2 AND LEAVE MAY 6 FOR NEW YORK. HE GAVE ME ESSENTIALLY THE ITINERARY REPORTED TO US BY BRANIFF MANAGER CARLOS BRUNSON FOR THE EUROPEAN PORTION OF HIS TRIP ( SANTIAGO 1490). HE SAID MRS. PRATS WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS OFFICIAL PARTY: ARMY LOGISTICS DIRECTOR GENERAL OSCAR BONILLA BRADANOVIC AND MRS. BONILLA, ARMY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS RAUL BENAVIDES ESCOBAR WITHOUT HIS WIFE, PRATS' PERSONAL SECRETARY COLONEL SIXTO RUBIO RAMIREZ AND MRS. RUBIO, AIDE TO GEN. PRATS MAJOR OSVALDO ZABALLA CUADRO WITHOUT HIS WIFE, AND ANOTHER CAPTAIN WHOSE NAME PRATS DID NOT REMEMBER ( WITHOUT HIS WIFE).

2. PRATS TOLD ME HE WOULD PROVIDE A DETAILED MEMORANDUM OF SUBJECTS HE INTENDED TO DISCUSS WITH GENERAL ABRAMS AS SOON AS HE COULD AFTER HOLY WEEK, AND IN ANY CASE AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. I TOLD PRATS MY UNDERSTANDING FROM GENERAL ABRAMS WAS THAT OUR ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF WOULD WISH TO TALK ABOUT MILITARY MATTERS AND NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL- ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. PRATS SAID HE ENTIRELY UNDERSTOOD, AND THAT WAS HIS OWN INTENTION FOR HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH  
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GENERAL ABRAMS.

3. PRATS ALLUDED ONCE AGAIN TO THE POSSIBILITY PRESIDENT ALLENDE MIGHT WISH HIM TO DISCUSS BROADER ISSUES " AT ANOTHER LEVEL." HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO TALK WITH FONMIN ALMEYDA, AND THE REPORT ALMEYDA BROUGHT BACK OF HIS OWN TALKS IN WASHINGTON MIGHT EFFECT ANY DESIRE PRESIDENT ALLENDE AND FONMIN ALMEYDA MIGHT HAVE THAT PRATS DO SOMETHING. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I SUGGESTED THAT PRATS MIGHT WISH CAREFULLY TO TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE. I REMARKED THAT IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT BOTH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND MY OWN GOVERNMENT HAD SEEN THE UTILITY OF RESPECTING THE SEPARATE CHARACTER OF OUR HISTORIC SERVICE- TO- SERVICE TIES, AND THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN NOT GETTING THEM MIXED UP WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. I INDICATED THAT PRATS PERSONALLY MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE WANTED TO COMMIT HIS OWN AND HIS SERVICE'S PRESTIGE IN AN INITIATIVE REGARDING THESE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. ( I STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING WHAT OUR ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, ALMEYDA AND PRATS DECIDED THEY WISHED TO PUSH AHEAD, NOTWITHSTANDING MY CAUTION.) PRATS COMMENTED THAT THE IDEA OF HIS UNDERTAKING SUCH A POLITICAL MISSION WAS BY NO MEANS DECIDED ON, AND HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN IF IT BECAME A MORE REAL POSSIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: AS I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO REVEAL MY ADVANCE INFORMATION FROM BRUNSON ABOUT GENERAL PRATS' EXACT DATES IN WASHINGTON, I HAD TO LEAVE A SLIGHT ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY IN CONFIRMING THE MAY 2-6 TIMING. I DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT FROM THE MESSAGE I HAD FROM GENERAL ABRAMS I WAS CONFIDENT GENERAL PRATS COULD GO AHEAD AND REQUEST CONGRESSIONAL PERMISSION WITHOUT AWAITING GENERAL ABRAMS FORMAL INVITATION. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND GREATLY APPRECIATED BY GENERAL PRATS IF THE FORMAL INVITATION COULD BE TELEGRAPHED WITHOUT DELAY. PRATS DISPLAYED ANXIOUSNESS THAT THE MAY 2-6 TIMETABLE BE MAINTAINED.

DAVIS

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** GENERAL PRAT' S TRIP  
**TAGS:** OVIP, CI, (PRATS, CARLOS)  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS  
**Type:** TE  
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